

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicants cancel claims 1, 2, 4-16, and 18-35 that were pending, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof, and add new claims 36-47. Claims 36-47 are thus pending in this application.

In the Office Action mailed November 6, 2003, the Examiner objected to claims 1, 2, 4-16, and 18-35 due to various informalities. The Examiner also objected to claims 1, 2, 4-16, and 18-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicants regard as the invention. Finally, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4-16, and 18-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Yamamoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,265,888) in view of Yamato et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,680,534). Because Applicants have canceled claims 1, 2, 4-16, and 18-25, without prejudice or disclaimer, the objections and rejections of these claims are rendered moot.

New independent claim 36 is directed to a game apparatus comprising a combination of features including, among other things, "a timer for measuring a duration of the game, wherein the CPU block stops the timer in the playing area where the declaration of victory is made after the victory declaration flag is validated." The cited prior art references Yamamoto and Yamato, taken alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest at least these features. Accordingly, the Examiner should allow claim 36.

New independent claims 39, 42, and 45, while of a different scope, include recitations similar to that of new claim 36. New claims 37-38, 40-41, 43-44, and 46-47 depend from claims 36, 39, 42, and 45, respectively. Accordingly, for at least the same reason as for allowable claim 36, the Examiner should allow claims 37-47.


In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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